




BIG CHIEF CHORUS
SMOKE
SIGNALS



Pontiac/Waterford Chapter
Meetings on Tuesdays: 7:30 to 10 PM

Bulletin #15, July 23, 2002

And on the web at www.pontiacchapter.com

Tuesday night Practices, July and August, at Silver Lake Church of the Nazarene, 520 W. Walton Blvd, just west of Telegraph.

Thanks to Dodge Melkonian, Zaven's brother, for our new masthead.

MEET ART CARINCI

I was just sitting in the Beaumont Hospital family birthing room, awaiting my new grandson, Todd David Cowlshaw (there, I worked it in), when I thought, "I believe I'll call **Art Carinci**." Here's what I learned.

Art was born and raised in Dearborn. He was always around music and got his love of singing from his dad, who, being Italian, loved to hear and sing opera. Nevertheless it was sports that got Art's attention in school, and he played football, hockey, and baseball. He was so good at goalie in the city hockey league, that in 1959-60, at the age of 20, he set a record for consecutive shutouts (at 5) that still stands, and his team won the state championship. Pro scouts were present, and he was drafted by the Blackhawks and Rangers. At that time there were only six teams and one goalie per team, so with so few slots at the top, he sold his goalie pads, and continued college. Of course he still plays hockey recreationally two days a week.

Art taught French and Italian at Southfield High for 22 years. He also coached hockey and was Athletic Director for 11 years. His friend and Southfield colleague, Leo Oshinsky, sidelined at California Closets, and Art joined him upon retirement in 1998.

Except for an early year on clarinet and a couple years in a church choir, it was Chris Miller who got Art into organized vocal music. Chris bowled at DAC with this same Leo, and over the years, parties brought Leo, Chris, Pete Mazzara and Art together. So of course Chris taught him a tag, "When I leave this world behind." Over several years, Chris's persistence paid off and Art joined Big Chief Chorus in January 2000. Then Art got Pete to join.

Art married Maria two years ago, honeymooning at Niagara at the same time we were singing, "Let's go again to Niagara, this time we'll look at the fall..." This joined their families of Maria's four kids and Art's three. Art's youngest is in Portland, Oregon, giving Art an excuse to attend International this year. "I thoroughly enjoyed it; I never thought barbershop could sound so good. But it made me feel inadequate." He heard a few of the choruses, including the winning **Masters of Harmony** and the **Big Chicken Chorus**, and all the quartets, particularly enjoying **Metropolis**, **Power Play**, and **Four Voices**. It also instilled a goal to sing in a quartet. Art, Jeff Spires, Mike Fry, and Chris Miller sang in Frankenthum as **Best In Show**, and Art would love to see that continue as an in-house quartet. After all, he said, "The best parties have been the ones where we're singing. It lifts the spirits and makes you feel good."

Art and Maria are in the process of moving to South Lyon, where they will continue to enjoy their life together of dancing, playing softball (something for her, something for him), theater, traveling, walking through the woods, and enjoying the variety of life.

AROUND THE PATCH

MEMBERSHIP

Renewal: Walt Plosky – 19 yrs

Returning member: Jerry Howington – 3 yrs

Now at 59 members

July Birthdays: Art Ripley 27th,

August Birthday: Mike Keith 5th, Russ Parry 7th, Wally Plosky 18th, Bill Auquier 24th, Jeff Doig 29th, Thomas Tailford 29th

BBS of Month, June – John Cowlshaw, for his work on the bulletin

Illnesses: Art Ripley is being treated for a tumor on his liver. Bill Dabbs was ill in June. Len Barnes has completed another chemotherapy regimen.

Lyle Howard writes: Now that all the Portland Hoopla is over and done with, and congrats to our Pioneer reps, one and all. And now that Hedges has his Bush league postings over and done with, it's time for some real news; **B - Natural**, that infamous (That's non - famous) quartet from the late 90's (You remember that era, don't you?) has been revived through popular demand. John Smith called me up and demanded that we resurrect it. I finally buckled and gave in after much badgering from the tubby little tenor. We have some new (Old) faces in the fearsome foursome in the likes of Roger Holm and Dick Johnson from Pontiac/Waterford, good singers - both. All together we think we have something like 450 years of experience doing this. (Well, maybe not quite.)

Bruce Brede submits this news: **Harmony Way** has new members with Mike Keith, Tenor, and Chuck Murray, Bass joining Jeff Spires, Bari, and Bruce Brede, Lead. Harmony Way will be the feature quartet this year at the Metamora Country and Heritage Days on Friday eve and all-day Saturday, August 23 & 24. Also working hard on a "munchkin" parody for the Show...should be ready to present to the chorus in August.

Four Wheel Drive had a coaching session with Linda Liddicoat June 30. One of her images that caught my mind: Singing soft rather than loud is like a train whistle far away rather than near – still powerful, just distant.

Chris and Nancy's Afghan, **Isis**, won Best in Show in Pittsburgh.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Barbershoppers from the Flint and Pontiac chapters attended the Flint summer picnic at Frankenmuth June 25. On the banks of the Cass River, the two chapter choruses sang, as well as several quarters, including **B Natural** (John Smith, Lyle Howard, Dick Johnson, Roger Holm), **Four Wheel Drive**, and **Best in Show**.

Two **Pioneer** representatives were among the recipients of **PROBE's annual Outstanding Achievement Award**:

-- **Power Play** (Don, Mike, Jack and Mark Slamka) "for their outstanding performances on the **Grand Ole Opry** in July 2001."

-- **Alexander Boltenko** of Kalamazoo "for his outstanding work organizing the 'Barbershop Night' on January 31, 2002, during the appearance of '**The Music Man**' on tour."

Board Minutes

June 13: Dick Johnson reported a balance of 5030.80 and 2,526.77 earmarked for our service fund. Four sections of new Risers will be purchased, thanks to Al Dittrich's donation of \$1800. The Board toured two possible rehearsal sites and decided on Church of the Nazarene for the month of July. Jerry Howington was

approved as a new member. John Cowlshaw selected as Barbershopper of the month. The contest tape was purchased. (Submitted by Jeff Doig)

July 18: Dick Johnson reported a balance of \$4,734 and we now have \$2,454 earmarked for our service fund. After much discussion, the board voted to use Clarkston High School as the new venue for the fall show. The Clarkston music dept has a Barbershop Chorus that we will try to involve in our Young Men In Harmony project. Crary School has invited us back in September. The Board decided to stay at Church of the Nazarene thru Aug. A committee will look for a permanent home (our geographical center is said to be about M59 & Telegraph.) Jeff Doig will check into a four-track recorder for the chorus. We plan to start practicing some Valentine songs early. Jeff Spires would like to work in a capacity other than Chorus Manager. Chris Miller would like to do the Chef routine for spring content. Would also like to see if we could form an ensemble to perform in the Fall contest. (Submitted by Jeff Doig)

Subsequently, **Show Chairman Pete Mazzara** sent an email indicating the consequences of a Clarkston venue for our show:

1. Perhaps we can switch the Refreshment Com. Chairs to 50/50 Raffle chairs?
2. Not pursue Lake Orion venues.
3. Reconsider our cast party location.
4. We need a Costume chairman.

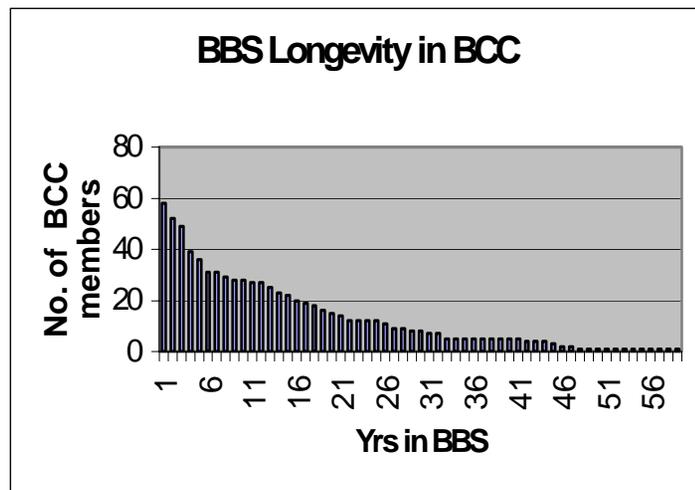
At this time, we believe the ticket price will be \$15, and there will be one show which will start at 7:30PM. This change is in direct response to your input from the Show Survey. We will hold off with any public notification until we have a contract with Clarkston schools.

www.parlorsongs.com is a great site for reading the history of old favorites. Here's the scoop on **Wait Till the Sun Shines Nellie**. It was written in 1905, music by Harry Von Tilzer, Lyrics by Andrew B. Sterling. "This song has been called "one of the biggest post turn of the century hits." There are two unconfirmed, but charming stories about the inspiration for this song. One story says that Von Tilzer got the idea from a newspaper account of a downtrodden family where the reporter commented that "the sun would once again shine for them after the storm." The second story contends that Von Tilzer heard a man say to a woman in a hotel lobby, "Wait till the sun shines Nellie." Whatever its true origin, it was a smash selling well over a million copies after its introduction by Winona Winter in vaudeville. Over the years, many stars have sung and recorded the song. In 1941, Mary Martin and Bing Crosby sung it as a duet in the film, *The Birth Of The Blues*. Gale Storm performed it in the 1942 film *Rhythm on Parade* and in 1952 it was the title song for the movie *Wait Till The Sun Shines Nellie*. Today, it is a staple of ensembles and barbershop quartets or for sing alongs in schools and homes."

Composer Harry Von Tilzer was born as Harry Gumm in Detroit in 1872 and died in 1946. Harry, one of five children, was to find a career in music as did his younger brother Albert. When still a child, his family moved to Indianapolis, Indiana, where his father acquired a shoe store. A theatrical company gave performances in the loft above the store, and that's where Harry learned to love show business. His career really started in 1886 when, at age 14, he ran away from home and joined the Cole Brothers Circus. By 1887, he was playing piano, composing songs, and acting in a traveling repertory company. He changed his name at that time. His mother's maiden name was Tilzer, and he 'gussied' it up by adding the 'Von'. Harry met Lottie Gilson when the burlesque troupe with which he was working reached Chicago. The popular vaudevillian took an interest, and induced him to go to New York. In 1892, Harry, working as a groom on a trainload of horses, arrived in New York, with just \$1.65 in his pocket. He rented a room near the Brooklyn Bridge and became a \$15.00 per week saloon pianist. He left New York briefly to work in a traveling medicine show, but returned to again work in saloons and later as a vaudevillian in a 'Dutch' act with George Sidney. At this time, Harry was writing songs, literally hundreds of songs that were never published. He would sell them outright to other entertainers for \$2.00 each. But the tide was about to turn for Harry. One of his songs was published, *My Old New Hampshire Home*, lyric by Andrew B. Sterling. William C. Dunn, owner of a small print shop, purchased it outright for \$15.00, and issued it in 1898. It was a hit that sold more than 2 million copies

BIG CHIEF Growth:

The following data is from the SPEBSQSA web site. I used that site to ask the question, "How many of our members have been in SPEBSQSA for how long?" The answer is in this histogram. Read it from right to left. You can see a steady growth 13 to 19 yrs ago i.e., in the mid to late 80's, and then in the last 5 years.



If Only The Guy Next To Me Was a Better Singer

The guy on the risers who stands to my left
 Is a Tenor like I am – and one of the best.
 If he stood in an election, he'd be sure of my vote,
 But there's one small weakness – he can't sing a note!
 His breathing's imperfect and his moves are all wrong –
 Small wonder I've problems with this awful song.

The end of my trials are not yet in sight.
 He's not half as bad as the one on my right.
 He's a Lead, so they tell me, and sings melody.
 But what passes his lips is a pale parody.
 He thinks that a chord is a long piece of string.
 His mother once told him, "My son, you can sing!"
 His posture is awful; his notes are not long.
 Small wonder I've problems with this awful song.

The one in the front is a Bari, no less.
 Past Chairman is this lad and taking a rest,
 "Cause I've listened and listened and think that I've found
 That he's moving his lips, but not making a sound!"
 Whatever he's doing, it cant be that strong –
 Small wonder I've problems with this awful song.

It's all right for Cinquino – he thinks they're all great
 And dares to tell ME off for moving too late.
 His comments are cutting and very unkind;
 If he stood where I'm standing, he'd soon change his mind.
 Instead of directing, he acts like King Kong –
 Small wonder I've problems with this awful song.

Why can't these people just sing like me,
 With overtones ringing like birds in a tree?
 My dynamics are perfect, sing loud or sing faint;
 Ex-choirboy, you know, and sang like a saint.
 No need to rehearse – I'm above the mere throng.
 Small wonder I've problems with this awful song.

-Anonymous From the BABS Harmony Express, 1988, submitted by Smitty.

Calendar

July 23	Chorus rehearsal, Amateur night
July 28-August 4	Harmony/Directors College, St. Joe, MO
July 30	Chorus rehearsal, Church of Nazarene
Aug 6	Chorus rehearsal, Church of Nazarene
Aug 13	Chorus rehearsal, Church of Nazarene
August 17	Chapter Picnic
Sep 10	Mystery trip
Sept 27-29	Bush League
Oct 18-20	District Convention – Battle Creek
Sat, Nov 9 (7:30pm eve)	Fall Show – Return to Oz – Clarkston H.S.
Jan 4-5	COTS, Okemos, MI
January 19-26, 2003	Midwinter Convention, Albuquerque, NM
Feb 22, 2003	Chorus Coaching Clinic, Lansing
April 25-27	District Convention – Lansing

Chapter Executive Board

Officers

Chorus Director: Chris Miller
President: Gene Downie
VP, Chapter Development: Walt DeNio
VP, Music and Performance: John Smith
Secretary: Jeff Doig
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large: Pete Mazzara and Wally Plosky

Chairmen

Quartet Activity: Len Barnes
Service (Charity): Bruce Brede
Singing Valentine: Bob Marshall
Chorus Manager: Jeff Spires
Music Librarian: Bill Holmes
Uniform Manager: Bill Auquier
Sunshine (Chaplain): Bill Dabbs
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw